



Cheshire West & Chester Council

Your Quick Money Guide

for Care Leavers aged 16-24



Cheshire West
and Chester

What you can expect

As your **Corporate Parent**, we will support you just like any parent would, this includes helping you to:

- manage money
- plan for independence
- understand what support you can get

Everything you get will be agreed in your **Pathway Plan** (your plan for adulthood)

Your support depends on your status

The amount of support you are entitled to depends on your age and circumstances. There are several types of Care Leavers. As a summary guide:

- **Eligible** - someone who is 16-17 and still in care
- **Relevant** - someone who is 16-17 and was in care for over 13 weeks after their 14th birthday and after turning 16
- **Former Relevant** - someone aged 18-24 who used to be a Eligible or Relevant
- **Qualifying** - someone aged 16-24 who has had some care experience



Education, jobs and training

Weekly incentives	• £15 per week for education OR training OR apprenticeships
Meals and travel	• £4.50 per meal (1 per day max.) • travel passes funded if needed
Getting a job and interview costs	• up to £100 support for clothing, travel

Everyday money

Weekly maintenance	• based on Universal Credit rates if eligible • paid if living independently
Bills (gas, electricity etc.)	• up to £50 per week before moving • more can be agreed if needed
Rent	• paid by CWaC if under 18, in certain tenancies • after 18, contributions from Universal Credit can be paid directly to landlord
Council Tax	• paid for you until age 25 (Former Relevant)



Extra support

Birthdays	• £303.45 at key birthdays (16, 17, 18 and 21) • £30 at 19 and 20 (if engaged in services)
Festivals	• £303.45 once a year (e.g. Christmas, Eid, etc.)
Clothing	• up to £600 per year (for Eligible Care Leavers based on need)
Holidays	• up to £500 contribution (not full cost of trip)
Phone and ID	• support with mobile phones • passport and driving licence applications
Gym/Leisure	• free Brio Leisure pass up to age 21

Setting Up Home Grant

When moving into your own home, you can receive up to £3,000 for:

- furniture
- appliances
- moving costs

Important rules:

- you don't have to spend it all at once
- the grant can be used up to age 25
- you usually cannot buy the same item twice
- it must be agreed with your worker



University and life post-18

University support:

- Bursary available
- 50% rent paid
- help with vacation accommodation

Trust Fund

Eligible and Relevant Care Leavers can apply for up to £400 in a 12-month period for practical support. For more details, speak to your Social Worker or PA.

Emergency support

Please get in touch if you feel you are in crisis. We want to make sure you have the essentials, including food and heating.



Remember...

- everything is agreed in your **Pathway Plan**
- some support is discretionary (based on need)
- you may need to:
 - show receipts
 - attend education/training
 - engage with your plan
- for more detailed information, see **Financial Policy for Care Leavers** booklet

Find out more

Find out more by contacting your Social Worker or Personal Advisor, or by emailing:

SupportingIndependence@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Please see the **Financial Policy for Care Leavers** booklet for a more detailed breakdown of entitlements.

Please visit our website to view the Care Leaver Offer:

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/health-and-social-care/children-and-young-people/care-leavers>





Accessing Cheshire West and Chester Council information and services

Council information is also available in audio, Braille, large print or other formats. If you would like information in another format or language, including British Sign Language, please email us at: **equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk**

You can also telephone: **0300 123 8 123**
or textphone: **18001 0300 123 8 123**
website: **www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk**

Supporting Independence Team
The Portal, Wellington Road
Ellesmere Port CH65 0BA